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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EL324593567US

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 16842-760

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Kenneth J. Livak et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
)  
Application No. Unassigned ) Examiner: Unknown  
(Continuation of USSN: 09/207,170) )  
)  
Filed: Herewith )  
)  
For: HYBRIDIZATION ASSAY USING SELF- )  
QUENCHING FLUORESCENCE PROBE )  
)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

In the specification, page 1, under the heading "Relationship to Copending Applications", please delete the entire paragraph beginning at line 17 and replace it with the following:

--This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/207,170, filed December 7, 1998, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/558,303, filed November 15, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,876,930, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/340,558, filed November 16, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,538,848, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--